

**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,  
MURFREESBORO, TN**

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS  
(ASCAP)/BROADCAST MUSIC, INC. (BMI) WAR SCRAPBOOK**

**89-029**

**Creator:**

McMillan, Charles W.

**Type of Material:**

**Physical Description:**

1 scrapbook

**Dates:**

1940 November - 1941 July

**Abstract (Descriptive Summary):**

**Access/Restrictions:**

The collection is open for research use.

**Provenance and Acquisition Information:**

Purchased from R.R. Allen Books of Knoxville, TN in 1989.

**Subject/Index Terms:**

**Agency History/Biographical Sketch:**

**Scope and Content:**

This scrapbook, titled by the compiler "The Battle of Music, ASCAP vs. BMI", documents what Russell Sanjek, **American Popular Music and Its Business**, vol. III, calls "the music war" between the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and the Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), November 1940-July 1941, over licensing fees for the use of music on radio networks. Included are ASCAP press releases, newsletters and flyers, many of which are reprints from newspapers and numerous clippings from one or more newspapers in Massachusetts, Ohio, New York, Oregon, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, California, Colorado, Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, Indiana, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Most of the material explains/defends/supports the viewpoint of ASCAP, except for an 8 page illustrated BMI pamphlet presenting its argument. Included are articles about and lists of composer/subject songs (e.g. Stephen Foster, Irish, patriotic, religious) managed by ASCAP which will no longer be available on radio. Items are occasionally interlined and/or annotated or titled by the scrapbook compiler about whom no information is available.

**Arrangement:**

**Location:**

This scrapbook is filed by accession number with other manuscript collections. A photocopy is available for research purposes located on top of the Vertical File in the Reading Room.

**Related Materials:**

The Center holds two ASCAP documents pertaining to the ASCAP Consent Decree of 1941, filed with other manuscript collections by accession number 07-001.

Processed by Ellen Garrison, 1989

Revised by Lucinda P. Cockrell, March 2008

Revised by Rachel K. Morris, July 2011